

ENGINE - Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) and Tufts University Study on Nutrition Policy Research

Rationale of the Study

While progress has been made in improving nutrition in Ethiopia, the government, along with its partners, wants to accelerate the rate of decrease in levels of malnutrition, especially stunting. Therefore, the aim of this research is to elicit insights from among key policymakers and stakeholders on the process of implementing interventions along a chain leading from central (government) to the frontline (*woreda*) level in Ethiopia. It will also examine cross-sectoral coordination at the national, regional, zonal, and *woreda* level. The proposed research will analyze how a range of policies and programs get translated from the design phase (on paper) to the implementation phase (in practice).

Design of the study

The study is a qualitative study and will interview key informants who have been purposefully selected for the information they will provide at the national and sub-national (region, zonal and *woreda* - 2 *woredas* from the Agriculture Growth Program (AGP) and 2 from non-AGP *woredas*) levels in four regions (Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Tigray) of Ethiopia. The sectors will include but not be limited to health, agriculture, education, finance and economic development, women, children and youth affairs and social protection. Interviewees will also include stakeholders from the government, academic institutions, UN agencies, bilateral donors (USAID, DFID, CIDA), non-governmental bodies e.g. Save the Children, MI, Alive 7 Thrive and FANTA 3.

Results of the study

The results of this study will provide evidence to explain why large-scale policies and programs targeting improved nutrition achieve their goals or not in various settings. The research will identify factors that enhance or constrain implementation of effective nutrition interventions at scale.

Importance to ENGINE

The Government of Ethiopia and international institutions have identified governance as a critical factor in effective implementation of policies and programs. How governance should be measured has proved challenging. This policy research will systematically assess governance structures and factors influencing successful program implementation. Ultimately, the results of this research will aid policy officials to identify effective strategies for improving nutritional status.